

REMARKS

Claims 20 and 22-27 are pending in the Application. Claims 1-19, 21 are cancelled.
Claim 20 has been amended. Claims 22-27 have been added. Claims 20 and 27 are independent.

In Paragraph 5 of the Advisory Action dated December 27, 2006, the Examiner indicated that Applicant's Amendment After Final Rejection to Claim 20 would overcome the prior art rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Speelman, U.S. Patent. No. 4,384,583.

The Examiner states that the "flat, linear middle portion upper and lower edges has not properly been claimed." Amended Claim 20 recites, in part, "a middle portion...upper and lower...edges...wherein the middle portion is substantially rectangular." As claimed, the middle portion and upper and lower edges have antecedent bases and are properly claimed.

Additionally, the Examiner states that "the upper and lower edges are only a "V-shape." However, amended Claim 20 recites "the middle portion is substantially rectangular...and...the upper edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion...and the lower edge slopes upwardly from the middle portion." As such, the device does not simply form a "V-shape," as the middle portion is "substantially rectangular."

Additionally, Examiner requests that Applicant positively claim "the garment straps...in combination with the strap tensioning device." However, amended Claim 20 recites, "securing the tensioning device about *one or more spaced-apart clothing straps*" (emphasis added). As such, Applicant has amended Claim 20 to provide for "one or more spaced-apart clothing straps."

For all the above reasons, the claim objections are believed to have been overcome placing Claims 20 and 22-27 in condition for allowance, and reconsideration and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: Joseph R. Englander
Joseph R. Englander
Reg. No. 38,871
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Customer No. 31292
Christopher & Weisberg, P.A.
Suite 2040
200 East Las Olas Boulevard
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Tel: (954) 828-1488
Fax: (954) 828-9122